

*“As the men and women of America’s armed forces, you are the sharp sword of freedom.”*

—Donald H. Rumsfeld  
*Secretary of Defense*

*“...we will not be deterred from carrying out our global responsibility as America’s expeditionary Aerospace force power.”*

—Dr. James G. Roche  
*Secretary of the Air Force*



## ***Homeland Defense***

# **Operation Noble Eagle**

### *‘It’s one of ours’*

Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service, recalls his observations and emotions from Sept. 11 at the Pentagon. A scary moment turned into an emotional and welcome one knowing the United States Air Force was coming to America’s homeland defense.

“With Reagan National Airport closed and all flights diverted, the suddenly silent skies seemed ominous. An F-16 screamed over the building. People looked up anxiously until an Air Force officer in a parade ground voice yelled, ‘It’s all right. It’s one of ours’,” he recalls.

AEDC remains a driving force behind America’s homeland defense through its testing of aerospace weapons systems, including clockwise at right: a 1993 test of an F-16 Fighting Falcon model undergoing a store separation test in the center’s four-foot transonic wind tunnel; a 1984 performance test of one of the F-16’s powerplants, the General Electric F110 engine; and the first Ram Acceleration Mission Test in 1992 of the F-15 and F-16’s powerplant, the Pratt & Whitney’s F100-PW-229.



### ***F-15 Strike Eagle store compatibility tests***

The Air Force’s F-15 Eagle is used to patrol America’s skies during Operation Noble Eagle. At left are some of the dozens of different store models used during wind tunnel testing of the F-15E dual-role fighter aircraft at the center.

Store separation testing, using five percent scale models, began in 1985. More than 500 aircraft/store configurations have been investigated to ensure that the F-15E can safely deliver the wide array of weapons needed to accomplish its air-to-ground and air-to-air missions.

The F-15 uses two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-220 or F100-PW-229 turbofan engines, both AEDC tested.

Operation Noble Eagle refers to U.S. military operations in homeland defense and civil support to federal, state and local agencies in the U.S.

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